

HERGÉ

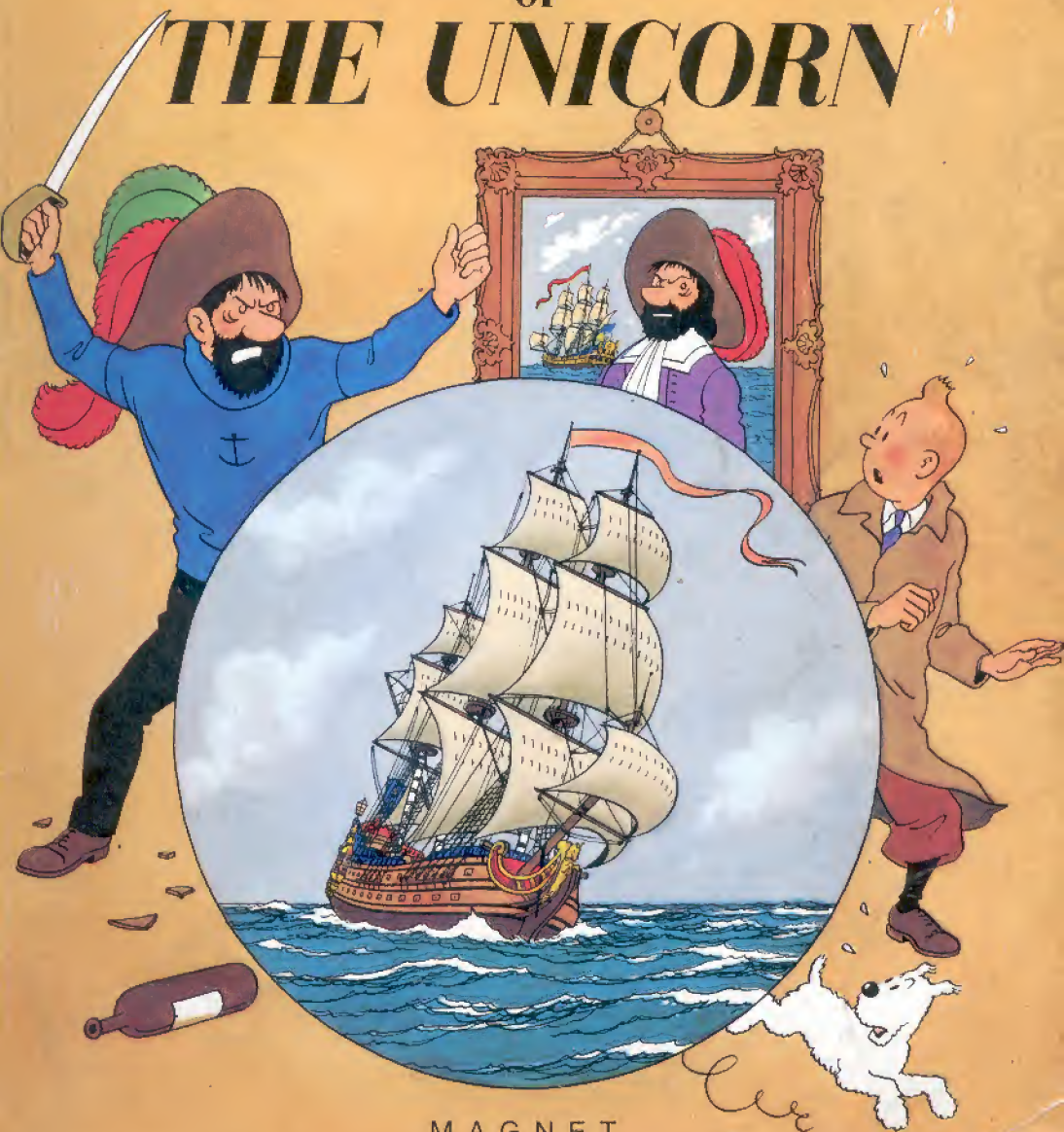
THE ADVENTURES OF

TINTIN

\*

THE SECRET  
OF

*THE UNICORN*



MAGNET

# THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**A**N alarming rise in the number of robberies has been reported in the past few weeks. Daring pickpockets are operating in the larger stores, the cinemas and street markets. A well-organised gang is believed to be at work. The police are using their best men to put a stop to this public scandal.

We must keep our eyes open, and catch these crooks.



How about starting in the Old Street Market? Tintin said he was going there this morning. Perhaps we'll meet him.

Good idea. Let's go.



Why, there are Thomson and Thompson.



Hello! ... How are you?

Look who's here!

Tintin!



What are you doing here? Looking for bargains? Sh!... Highly confidential!... Special operation: pickpockets.

But that didn't stop us from finding this job-lot of walking sticks.



How much?

Eight bob for the lot.



Six shillings.

Seven... but I'm robbin' meself...





See? You've always got to haggle a bit, here.



?



My wallet's been stolen!



But that's absurd!... You must have left it at home... or perhaps you've lost it?

No, I'm sure someone's stolen it!



Here, you hold these sticks. I'll pay.



Just the sort of thing that would happen to you!... To go and let someone pinch your wallet!



?



Mine's gone too!



Here, let me pay for them.

Thanks very much, Tintin. We'll pay you back tomorrow.



There.



Goodbye! We're going to report this straight away...

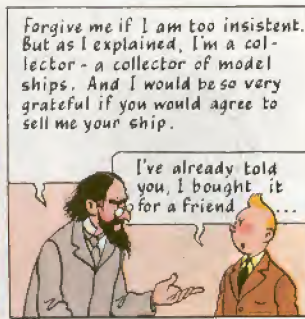
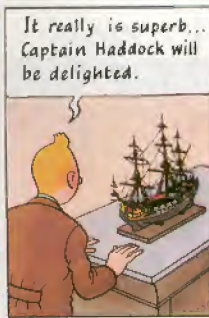
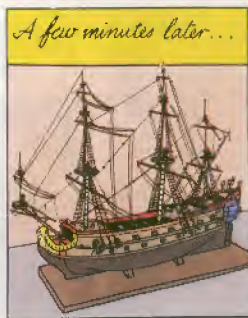
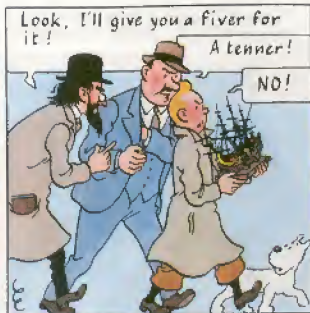


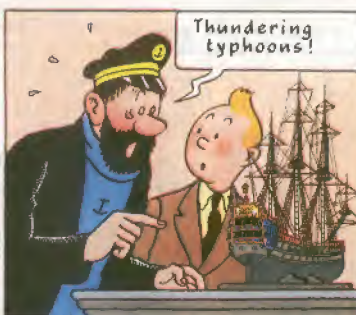
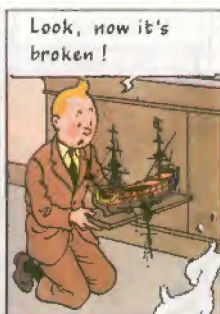
Stop thief!... Help!... My suitcase!...















RRRRING...  
RRRRING...  
RRRRING...



Hello?... Yes... Ah, it's you... Well, has your ship got the same name?... What did you say?... It's been stolen?



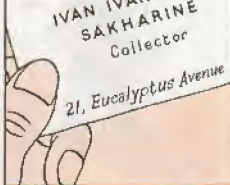
Yes, stolen!... Do I suspect anybody? No one at all... at least... Look Captain, I'll ring you again later...



Yes... he's the only possibility...



IVAN IVANOVITCH  
SAKHARINE  
Collector  
21, Eucalyptus Avenue



Just you wait, Mr. Ivan Ivanovitch Sakharine!



Here we are...



I've a hunch that we're off on one of our adventures again...

RRRING



Something tells me he's going to get a surprise when he opens the door!



Ah, there you are!... Come in... I was expecting you.



What?... Expecting me?... Then you know why I've come.



You've come to tell me that you'll sell your ship after all...

Certainly not!



Not?... Then I don't understand...

Is this where you keep your collection?... I've come to tell you, sir... that my ship has been stolen...



... and that I'm waiting for you to explain how it comes to be here!





You are mistaken, young man. I've had this ship for more than ten years!...

Ten years? But you were trying to buy it from me less than two hours ago!



This wasn't the ship!... Not this one!... Yours was, in fact, exactly the same, but it wasn't this one!

Indeed?...



Well, sir, we can soon tell. Just after you'd gone, my ship fell over and the mainmast was broken. I put it back, but you can see where it broke. So we'll look at your mainmast, if you don't mind!

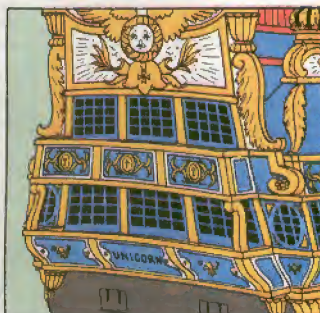


It's not broken! ... This isn't my ship!

So, you see!



I can understand your surprise. I myself was amazed to find an exact replica of my own vessel in the Old Street Market. And because it seemed so odd, I did all I could to persuade you to part with it...



Please do forgive me, sir... I am so very sorry...

That's all right! And if you find your ship, let me know.



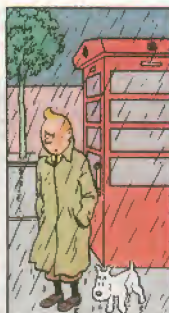
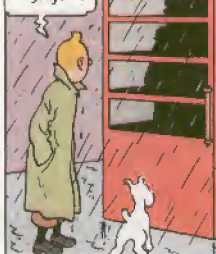
It's extremely odd! Two ships exactly like the one in the Captain's picture... and with the same name: UNICORN.



I must telephone the Captain at once! He'll be amazed!



Engaged!



It really is unbelievable how long people can chatter on the telephone! More than a quarter of an hour! Ah, at last!



We can go now, Fifi: it has stopped raining...





My door's open! ... What can be the matter now? ...



My flat has been ransacked! ...



The gangsters! What have they done to my books?



This one is completely ruined! ... The vandals!



Burgled twice in one day ... Not bad at all!



What have they taken this time?



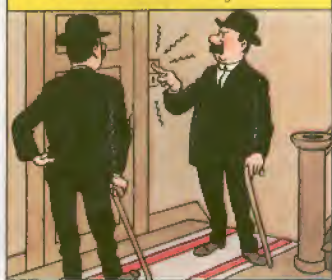
Very queer thieves: they haven't taken a thing.



They've only searched the place... I wonder what they were looking for? ...



*Next morning ...*





Hello. How are you?...  
Good heavens! Whatever's  
happened?



Er... nothing really... just a  
little spot of bother, in the Old  
Street  
Market...

Er... yes... a slight mis-  
understanding. Anyway,  
we've come to pay you  
the money for those  
sticks. We called last  
night, but you were  
out.



Did you get your  
wallet back  
all right?



I'm afraid not.  
But I bought a  
new one this  
morning, and  
... and ...



Goodness gracious! I've  
been robbed again!



Great Scotland Yard!... That man  
we met last night on the stairs,  
on our way here!... I remember  
now: he bumped into me!...



What was  
he like?

He bumped  
into me,  
too!

Quite tall... coarse features  
... black hair... small black  
moustache... blue suit...  
brown hat...



That's him... the man  
from the Old Street  
Market!

But he couldn't have stolen your  
wallet last night, when you  
only bought it this morning.



There's something  
in what you say...

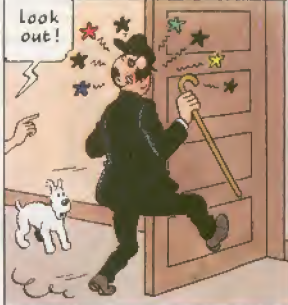
Miserable thieves! A brand  
new wallet! Come along,  
Thomson, we must report this  
right away!



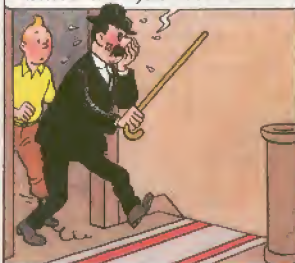
He's right!... We must report  
it at once...



Look  
out!



Hey, Thomson, wait for me.  
Where are you?...



Here!... I'm downstairs already!



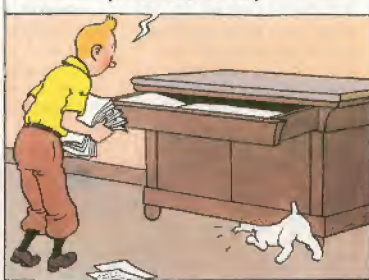
Poor old Thomsons, they do have rotten luck!... There seems to be quite an epidemic of larceny and house-breaking.



Oh well, let's try and get these papers sorted out...



What are you after, Snowy?



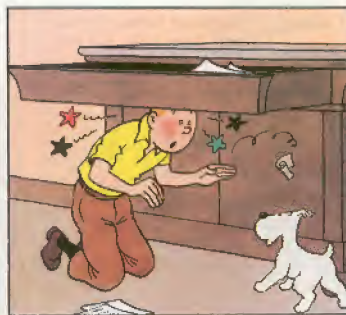
A cigarette, under there? That's a funny place...



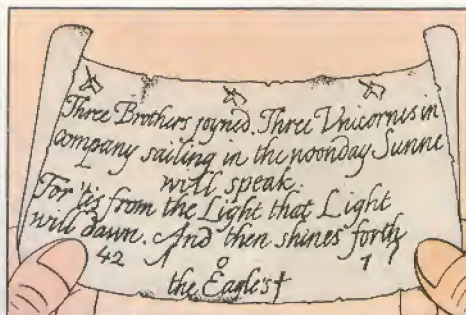
Why, it's not a cigarette... it's a little scroll of parchment...



But this isn't mine! Where ever did it come from?... Let's have a closer look at it...



Here's another mystery!



But it's all gibberish! And where on earth did this parchment come from, anyway?





Great snakes! I've got it... This parchment must have been rolled up inside the mast of the ship. It fell out when the mast was broken, and it rolled under the chest...

And that explains something else! ... Whoever stole my ship knew that the parchment was hidden there. When he discovered the scroll had gone, he thought I must have found it. That's why the thief came back and searched my flat, never guessing the parchment was under the chest...

Tintin, you're a real Sherlock Holmes!

But why was he so anxious to get hold of it? If only it made some sense... then at least...

I wonder... But... of course! ... That must be it! There's no other answer.

Quick, Snowy!... We must see the Captain.

Why? What is it now?

Treasure, Snowy!... Come on, this is going to be a treasure-hunt!

RRRRING  
RRRRING  
RRRRING  
HADDOCK

Yes, I'm absolutely certain it must be treasure...

The old lazybones! He's still in bed!

No?... then where can he be?

No one at home. Perhaps he's gone out. I'll ask his land-lady...

Captain Haddock?... No, I didn't see him go out. Hasn't he answered the bell? That's funny...

Perhaps he's ill?

Ill? He might be... His light's been on all night...

We must find out at once.

No answer?... Wait!... He must be in. I can hear a noise...

RRRRRRING

Captain!... Captain! Open the door!... It's me... Tintin...



Not a sound...

Still no answer...



THUMP THUMP THUMP



Come one pace nearer and I'll blast you to blazes!



Shall I go for the police?

No... a locksmith would be a better idea!



I think... yes, he's talking to himself! This is getting serious!...



Ah, here comes the locksmith.



Got it?...



Nope... can't do it, guv! The door's bolted...



We must force the door. I'll be responsible for the damage...



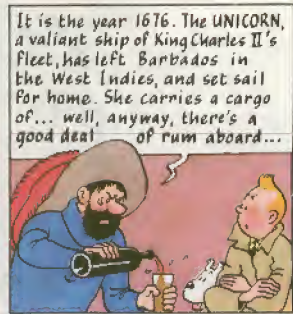
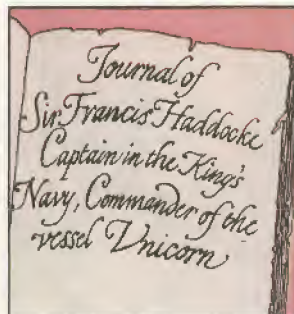
One... two...



CRASH









Two days at sea, a good stiff breeze, and the **UNICORN** is reaching on the starboard tack. Suddenly there's a hail aloft...



Sail on the port bow!



Thundering typhoons!.. She's mighty close-hauled! Ration my rum if she's not going to cut across our bows!



And she's making a spanking pace! Oho! she's running up her colours.. Now we'll see...





The Jolly Roger!  
Pirates! ...



Ahoy there!... Clear the decks  
for action!... Man the poop!...  
Stand by to haul the wind!



Turning on to the wind  
with all sails set, risking  
her masts, the UNICORN  
tries to outsail the dreaded  
Barbary buccaneers ...



Thundering typhoons! It's no use...  
She's overhauling us fast!



They must outwit the pirates.  
The Captain makes a daring plan.  
He'll wear ship, then pay off on the  
port tack. As the UNICORN comes  
abreast of the pirate he'll loose  
off a broadside... No sooner  
said than done! ...



Ready about!...  
Let go braces!...  
Beat gunners to  
quarters!



The UNICORN has gybed completely  
round. Taken by surprise, the  
pirates have no time to alter  
course. The royal ship bears down  
upon them... Steady...

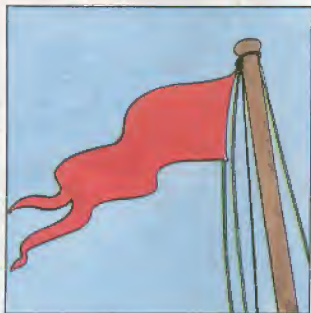


FIRE!





Got her, yes! But not a crippling blow. The pirate ship in turn goes about - and look! she's hoisted fresh colours to the mast-head!



The red pennant!... No quarter given!... A fight to the death, no prisoners taken! You understand? If we're beaten, then it's every man to Davy Jones's locker!



The pirates take up the chase - they draw closer... and closer... Throats are dry aboard the UNICORN.



Close hauled, the enemy falls in line astern with UNICORN, avoiding the fire of her guns... She draws closer...



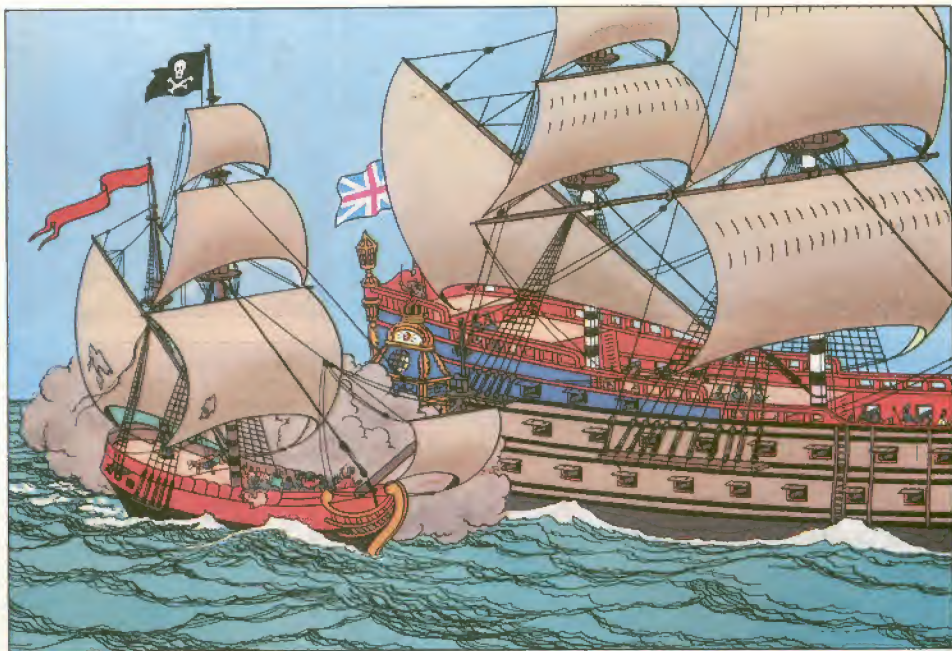
Then suddenly, not more than half a cable's length away, she slips from under the UNICORN's poop... whoosh, like that!



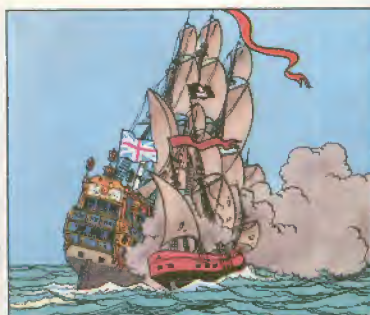
Then she resumes her course. The two ships are now alongside. The boarders prepare for action...



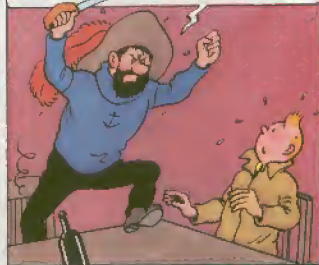




Here they come ! Grappling irons are hurled from the enemy ship. With hideous yells the pirates stream aboard the **UNICORN**.



All hands to repel boarders!

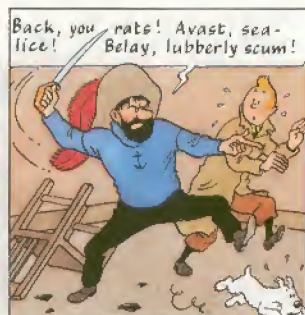




Stand back! Out of my way!  
Can't you see the pirates swarm-  
ing over the side!



Back, you dogs!



Back, you rats! Avast, sea-  
lice! Belay, lubberly scum!







Sir Francis?... When he came round he found himself securely lashed to his own mast. He suffered terribly...

From that blow on the head, of course...

No, from thirst!...

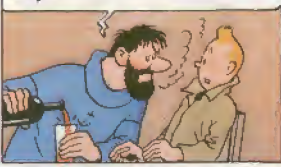
Poor man, how he suffered.



He looked about him. The deck was scrubbed, and no trace remained of the fearful combat that had taken place there. The pirates passed to and fro, each with a different load...

What's happening? Instead of pillaging our ship and making off with the booty, they're doing just the opposite.

But there's a man approaching. He wears a crimson cloak, embroidered with a skull: he's the pirate chief! He comes near - his breath reeks of rum - and he says:



Regard me ham!

well, dog: I am Red Rack-

Your servant, sir. And I am Sir Francis Haddock.

Doesn't my name freeze your blood, eh? Right. Listen to me. You have killed Diego the Dreadful, my trusty mate. More than half my crew are dead or wounded. My ship is foundering, damaged by your first attack, then holed below the waterline as we boarded you...



...when some of your dastardly gunners fired at point blank range. She's sinking... so my men are transferring to this ship the booty we captured from a Spaniard three days ago.

And what booty!

Look at these diamonds!





These are worth more than six times a king's ransom ...

Did you come here just to tell me that?



No, that's not why I came. I came to tell you that those who annoy me pay dearly for their folly! Tomorrow morning I shall hand you over to my crew. And that flock of lambs know just administering how to administer a lin-

death!



So saying, he laughed sardonically, picked up his glass and drained it at a gulp, like this...



That's enough, Captain! Go on with your story...



Very well. Towards nightfall, the UNICORN with her pirate crew sighted a small island. Soon she dropped anchor in a sheltered cove...



Darkness fell; the pirates found the UNICORN's cargo of rum, broached the casks, and made themselves abominably drunk...



Abominably!... Yes abominably... that's the word



Hey, what's the idea?... I only wanted to show you...

You don't have to, I quite understand.



Just as you like, Tintin... Now where was I?

The pirates were abominably drunk...



AAAAA-AAAAH!





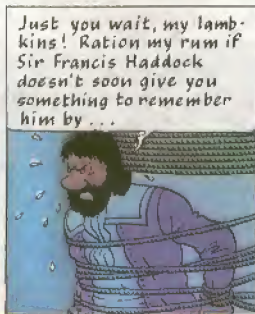
That's funny!  
Now there are  
two glasses!



Well, in the meantime...



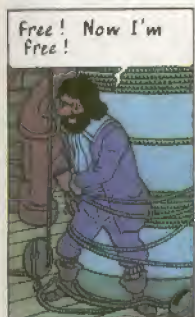
In the meantime Sir Francis struggled desperately to free himself...



Just you wait, my lamb-kins! Ration my rum if Sir Francis Haddock doesn't soon give you something to remember him by...



Done it! That's one hand free!



Free! Now I'm free!



On your guard, Red Rackham: here I come!



And with these words he hurled himself...

On the pirates?..  
Like that?..  
Unarmed?..



No, on a bottle of rum, rolling on the deck!... He opened it, put it to his lips, and...



And then he stops. "This is no time for drinking," he says, "I need all my wits about me." With that, he puts down the bottle...



Yes, he puts down the bottle... and seizes a cutlass. Then, looking towards the fo'c'sle where the drunken roistering still goes on...



You sing and carouse, little lambs!... I'm off to the magazine!



You know, of course, the magazine in a ship is where they store the gunpowder and shot...



There!... The party won't be complete without some fireworks!



Now I must make haste! There's just time for me to leave the ship before she goes up!



So, I've caught you!



So, dog, high! have I'll be-

you'd blow us sky-high! Well, you won't have that pleasure! skin you alive, fore I even douse that fuse!



By Lucifer! I'll shave your beard, porcupine!

And I'll pluck those feathers, squawking popinjay! Fancy-dress freebooter! Fresh-water pirate! Pithecanthropus!



Retreat as you may, you cannot escape me!

I'll run you through, prattling porpoise!



And as he fought, Sir Francis kept thinking of that Fuse, about to touch off the powder at any moment



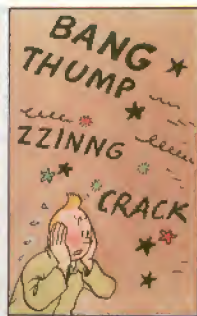
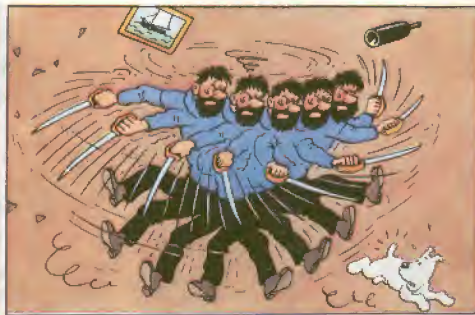
Suddenly, nimbly parrying a thrust, he leapt to one side...



With one swift blow from his heel he extinguished the Fuse!



Now, Red Rackham, my temper's rising!



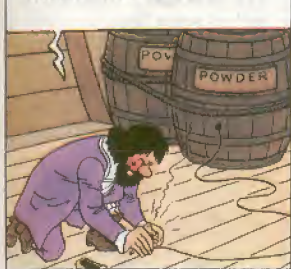
Victory! Red Rackham lies dead! With a yo-ho-ho and a bott le of rum!



That's that! May heaven forgive your wicked soul!



Enough delay! Now to light another Fuse...



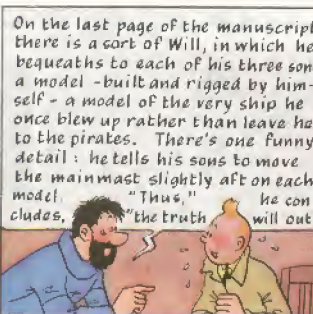
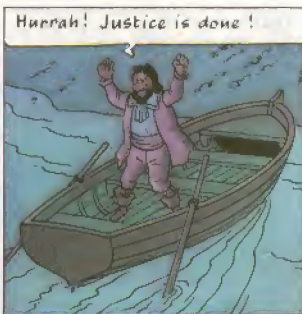
...and be off!



No one has seen me: they're still drinking. Quick, into the jolly-boat...







What do you mean?

Why do you suppose Sir Francis told his sons to move the mainmast on each of the three ships?

How should I know? He must have been a very particular man, and wanted the ships to be perfect!

In that case, he would have moved the masts himself. Why did he tell his sons to do it?

Because if his sons had obeyed him, they would have found a tiny scroll of parchment inside each mast!

What's that? How do you know?

Because I myself found the parchment hidden in the ship I bought in the Old Street Market. Here it is...

My wallet! ... Someone's stolen my wallet...

Stolen it? You've probably left it at home.

No, it's been stolen. It was taken in the bus, on my way here. I remember being jostled...

What was on the parchment?

Wait... er... yes: *Three brothers joined - that's the three sons. Three Unicorns in company sailing in the noon-day Sunne will speak - that means we must get the three ships to deliver their secret: the three parchments. The rest isn't so easy...*

*For 'tis from light that light will dawn. And then shines forth... and then some numbers, and at the end, a little cross follows the words the Eagles... that's all.*

But what can it mean?

I don't know yet, but I'm sure that if we can collect the three scrolls together, then we shall find Red Rackham's diamonds. I already know where the second one is. Come on, Captain!

You know where the second scroll is?

Yes, I know who's got the second UNICORN.

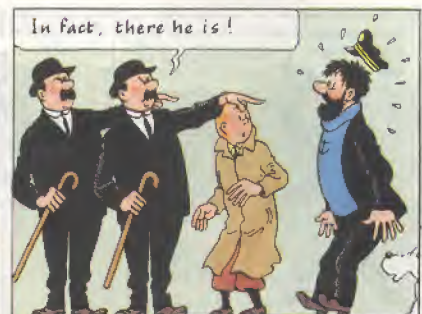
The second UNICORN built by my ancestor?

Yes, it belongs to a certain Mr. Sak-harine.

This is it: he lives here, at Number 21.

HELP!.. HELP!.. HELP!..





Me, the culprit? You dare accuse me?... Miserable earth-worms!... Sea-gherkins!



Slave-traders!... Sea-lice!... Black-beetles!... Baboons!



Artichokes!... Vermicellis!... Phylloxera!... Pyrographers!



Crab-apples!... Goosecaps!... Gogglers!... Jelly-fish!



Captain! Captain! Calm yourself!

Yes, please calm yourself, Captain. We only said that by way of an experiment...



What sort of experiment?

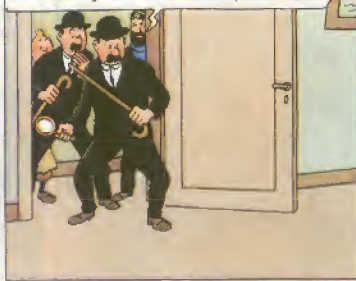
You see, if you really had been guilty, you'd have been upset. As it is, we are now quite convinced of your innocence.



Now, to work! We must look for fingerprints.



Goodness gracious!...The corpse has gone!



Look!...Your corpse is coming round!



What happened to you, Mr Sakharine?



A man came here last night, to offer me some fine old engravings. As I bent over to look at them I felt a pad clamped over my nose...

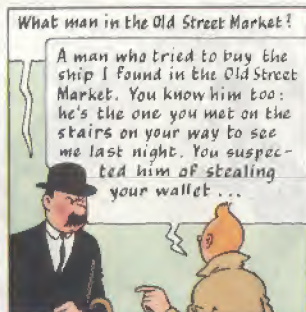
No doubt it was chloroform, for I became unconscious...



Very odd... To be precise... Can you smell something burning?











Next morning...

# SHOOTING DRAMA

AN unknown man was shot dead in Labrador Road just before midday yesterday. As he was about to enter No. 26, three shots were fired from a passing car which had slowed down opposite him. The victim was struck by all three bullets in the region of the heart. He died without regaining consciousness.

Poor devil. No one will ever know what he meant when he pointed to those sparrows.



Hello, Captain! Come in... I'm just telephoning the hospital for news of the wounded man...



It's no good: he's dead.

Hello?... Is that the House-Surgeon? This is Tintin... Good-morning, Doctor. How's our injured man? Just the same? Still unconscious?... Is there any hope? A little... yes... Thank you. Goodbye.



But look here: it says in the paper that he's dead.

Yes, the papers were told he'd died. The crooks will believe he didn't give them away, so they won't be on their guard, and they'll get caught one day.



Ah, I see now. But I still wonder what that poor chap meant, pointing at those sparrows...

So do I, Captain. It's all very mysterious. "To be precise: very mysterious", as the Thomsons would say.



Another day watching for pickpockets all over the place. I'll be glad to get back home.



Here comes our bus at last!



My wallet!... This time I've got you, you scoundrel!



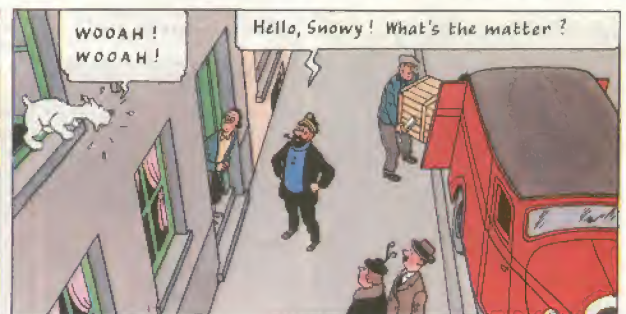
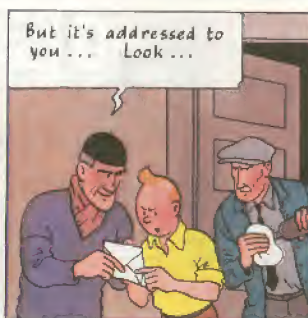
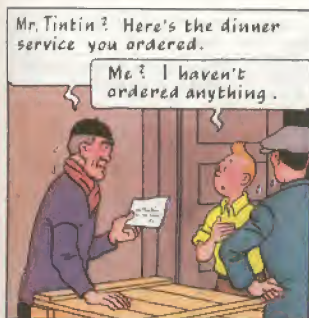
Stop, villain!



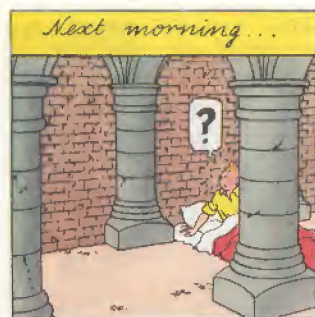
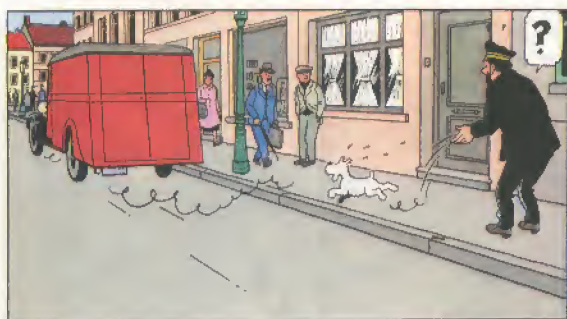












Nobody there! But I wasn't dreaming: someone spoke!



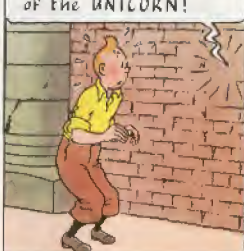
Yes, someone spoke!



Who... who are you?... And where are you?



Who am I? [I am the ghost of the captain of the UNICORN!]



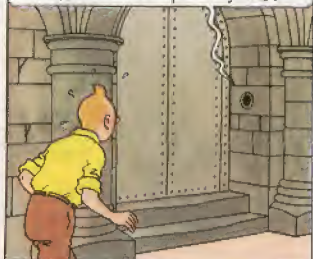
Ha! ha! ha! ha! ha!



Ha! ha! ha! ... That frightened you, didn't it?... Come over to the door... Come on.



Come nearer. Good... Now, can you see the speaking-tube?



Who are you, and what do you want with me?

Who am I?... You must allow me to remain anonymous... And why did I have you kidnapped? You have guessed that, no doubt...



I want to know where you have hidden the two parchments you stole from me.

Me? I stole two parchments?... But I never had more than one.



Come on now, let's be sensible! I'd collected two of the three scrolls: you took them from me. That night when I had your flat searched, only the third one was found... in your wallet. Where are the other two?

How should I know?

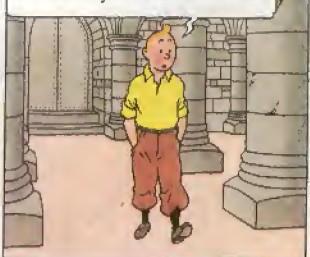


As you like. But I warn you: I know of several ways to loosen stubborn tongues... I'll give you two hours to tell me where you hid those scrolls, then if you won't talk, you'll soon see the sort of man I am!

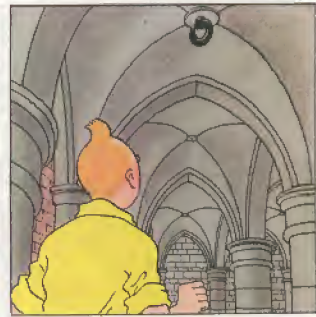
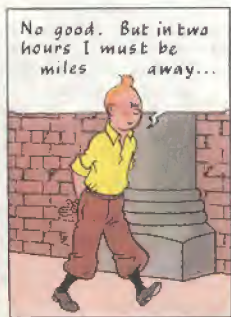
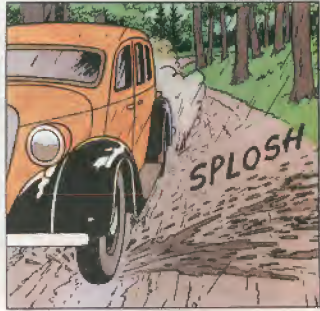
But I tell you... Oh he's cut off, the gangster!



Now I'm in a fine mess! How do I get out of this one?







First I'll knot these sheets and blankets together...



Then tie them securely to this beam...



And pull! ... Heave-ho! ... Heave-ho! ... Heave-ho! ... Heave! ...



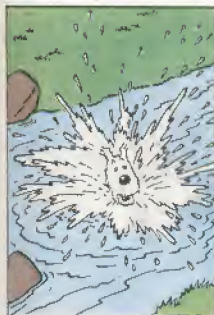
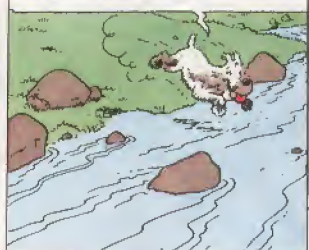
Start again: I've simply got to move this beam. Now...



Meanwhile...



A quick bath and I'll soon get rid of this mud.



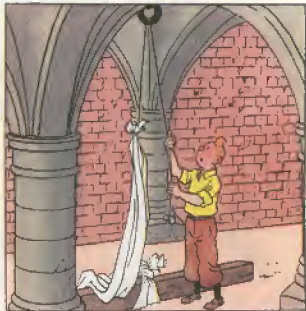
Aha! It's good to be nice and clean again.







Now I'll tie a small stone to the end of this string, like this ...



And that's made a fine battering-ram!



Did you hear that?

Yes, a muffled thud. It shook the whole house.



There it is again ...

That's odd... Sounded as if it came from the cellars ...



From the cellars? But ...

By thunder! It must be Tintin. I expect he's calling us - to tell us where those scrolls are hidden ...

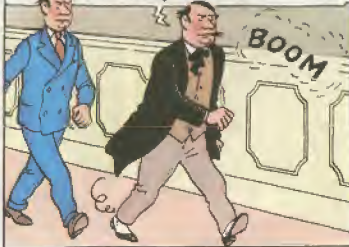


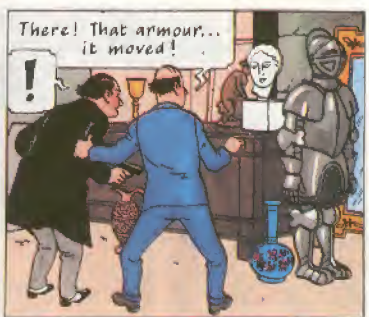
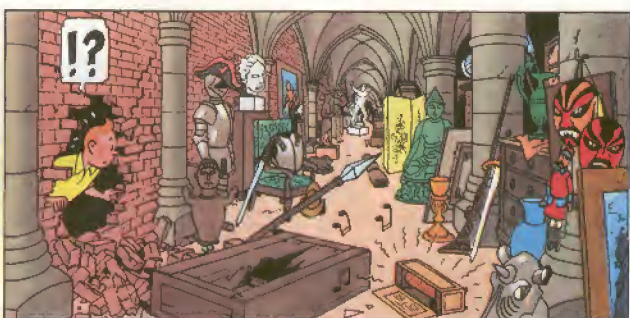
Hello?... Hello Tintin?... Hello?... Hello?... That's funny: he's not answering ...

But the noise is going on.



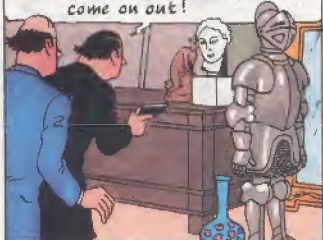
We must get to the bottom of this. Come with me; we'll see what's happening.







So, my friend, you thought you'd be smart and hide in a suit of armour. Well, you're caught: come on out!

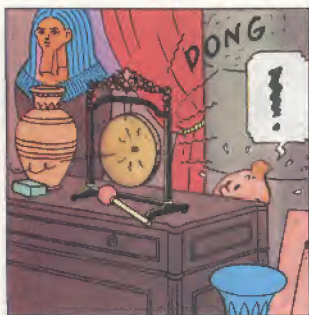


You won't? That's too bad for you! I'll count up to three and then I fire. One... two... three...



BANG

BANG



Confound it! He wasn't inside the armour!



Did you hear that?

Yes, it's nothing. A bullet ricocheted off the armour and struck that gong over there. Come on, don't let's waste time...



Whew! What luck! ... They've gone past. I'll just slip out...



Where are they? I can't see them...



CUCKOO!



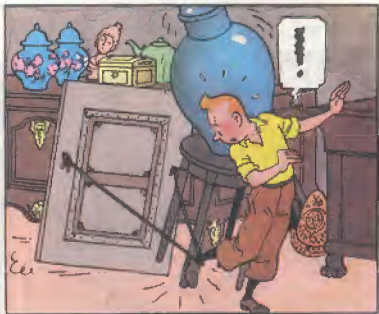
CUCKOO!... CUCKOO!... CUCKOO!

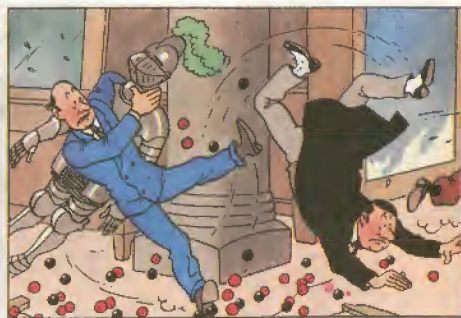
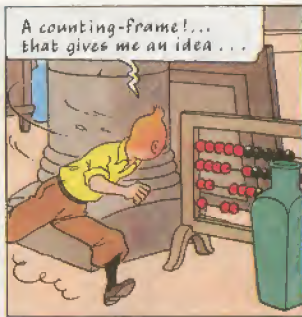
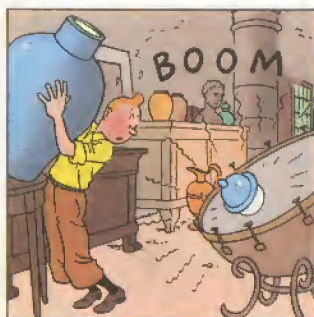
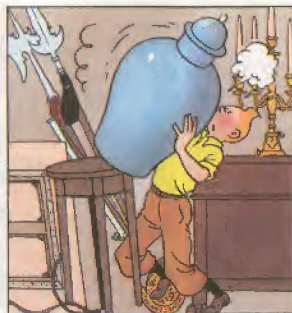


Stupid! That's not Tintin: it's a cuckoo-clock striking. Come, let's get on with it.

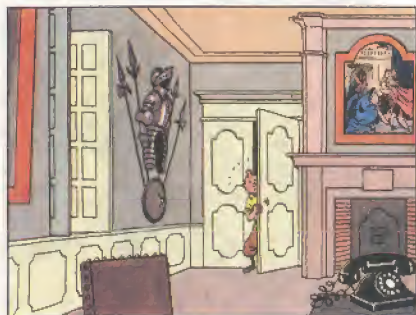
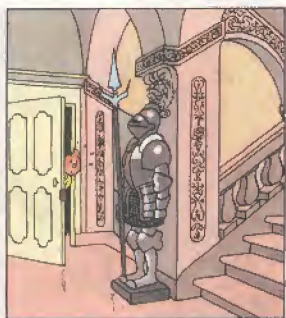
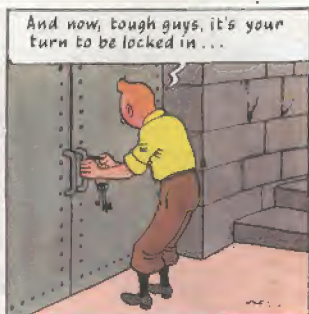


On you go, Tintin! You're in luck!









Now I see what he meant - the man who was shot-pointing to the birds. He was giving us the name of his attackers! ... Just look at this letter ...



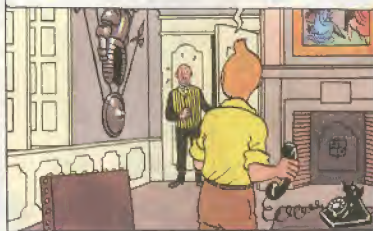
Quick, let's ring up the Captain ...



Hello... yes... it's me... yes... Who's speaking? What? Tintin!... I... Where are you? Hello?... Hello?... Hello!... Hello?... Are you there?...



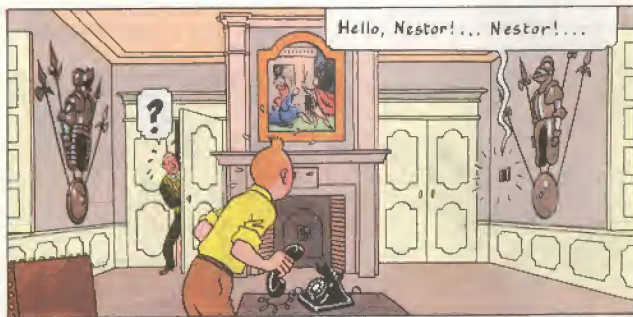
What am I doing here?... I... er... I'm Mr. Bird's new secretary. Didn't you know that?...



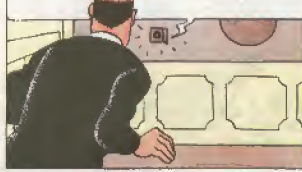
I... no, I hadn't heard. Please excuse me, sir.



Hello, Nestor!... Nestor!...



Hello, Nestor!... A young ruffian's broken into the house! Stop him telephoning his accomplices! We're coming at once. Don't let him get away, whatever you do!



Hello, Captain! I'm at Marlinspike Hall... Bring the police! Drop that telephone, you!



Starlings bite? ... Hello?... Hello?... Starlings bite what? ...



Marlinspike, Captain! Marlinspike Hall!

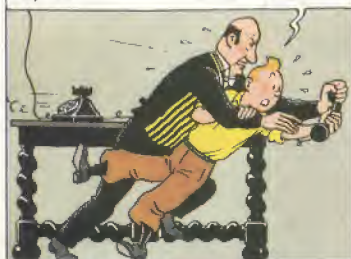


What?... Martin's bike?... Hello?... Hello?... Thundering typhoons! What's going on?





Marlinspike Hall! ... Marlinspike!



Hello, Captain? Can you hear me?... I'm at Marlinspike Hall! No, Marlinspike's the name!



What?... What sort of game?... 'Hello! He's rung off!



HELP!  
HELP!



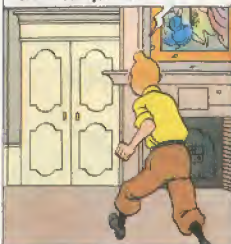
That was Nestor's voice!



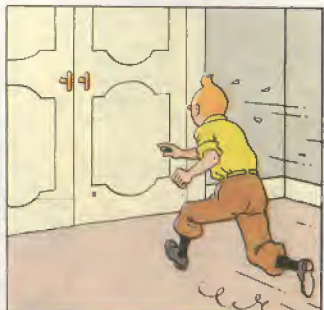
That's torn it! The telephone's broken!

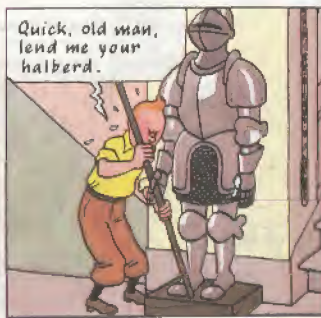
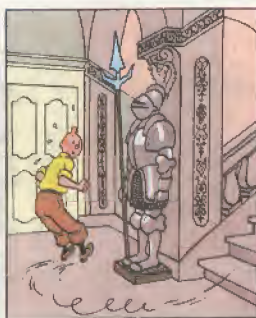
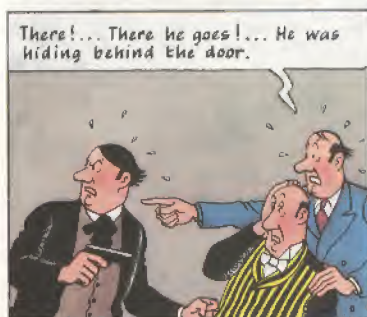


There's only one thing to do - run for it - double quick!

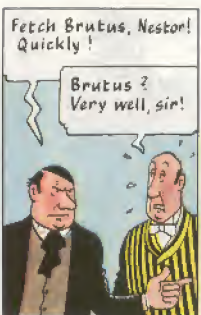
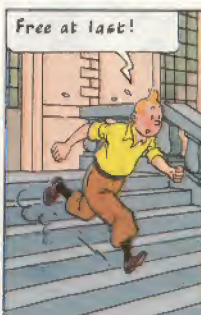
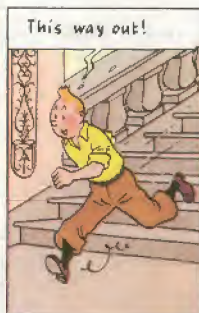
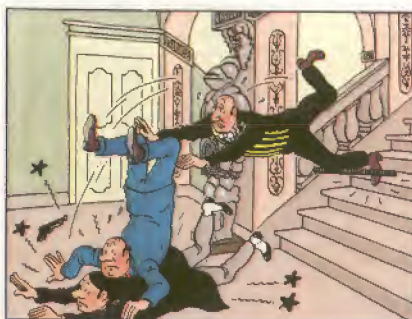
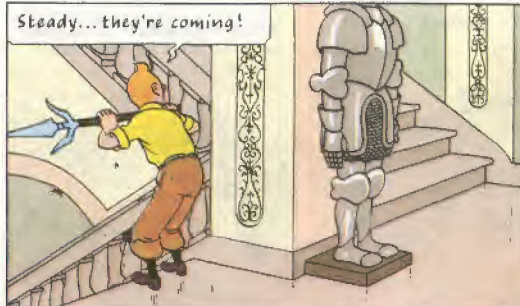


If he's here he can't escape us...

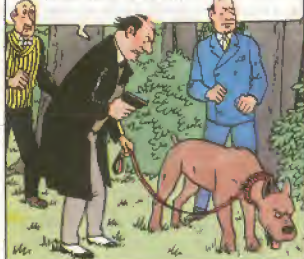




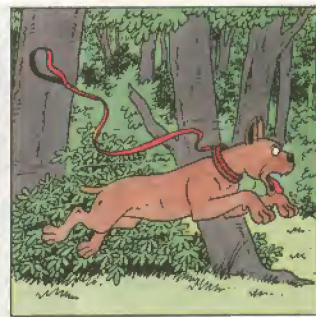




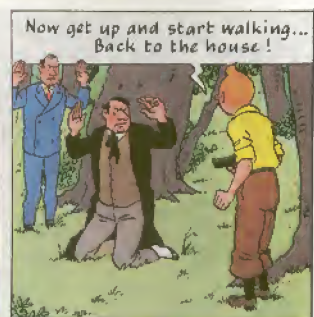
Go on, find him! We musn't lose the scent.



Brutus! ... Here Brutus!











Where are they going?  
... Oh, I see: that  
little wretch is taking  
care to put Brutus  
back in his kennel.



WOOF!  
WOOF!

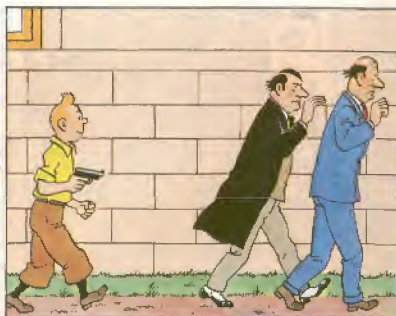


That's that! And now, gentle-  
men, we'll go to the police-  
station!

They're coming back this  
way: they'll pass under  
the ground-floor win-  
dows. Perhaps there's  
some way ...

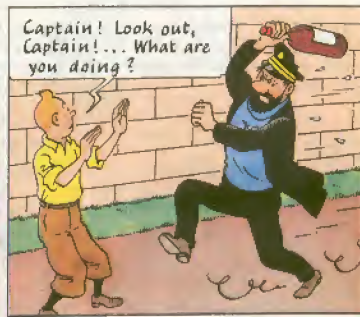
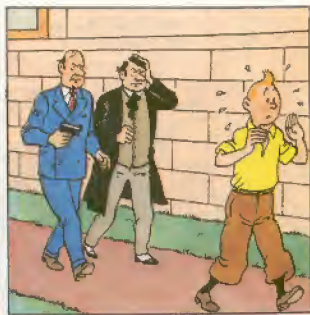


Keep cool, Nestor!

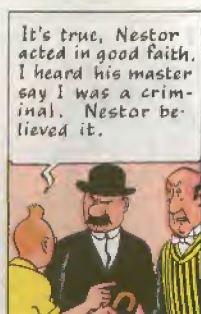
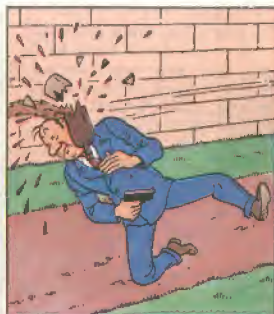


Here they come!  
Careful, don't miss ...









Gentlemen, there has been a miscarriage of justice! This man is innocent, as Tintin said. Won't you take off these handcuffs... and let him go and fetch me another bottle of brandy?



There, my man, now you're free. And we'll use these handcuffs for your masters!



We'll follow you, Nestor. Don't forget: it's to be three-star!



Now, Captain, tell me how you came to be here.



Oh, yes... Right. Well...

Just after your telephone call - and I didn't understand a word of that - someone rang up from the hospital...



... where they still had the little-birds-man. After hovering between life and death, he'd just come round and identified his attackers: the Bird brothers, antique dealers of Marlinspike Hall. It was only when I heard that name...



... that I understood what you meant on the telephone. There was no time to lose: I warned the police at once, and we rushed here...



WHAM \* OH! WHAM OW! \*



We shouldn't have left the police with those two gangsters!...



Look!... one's escaping!... there! He's just turned the corner!



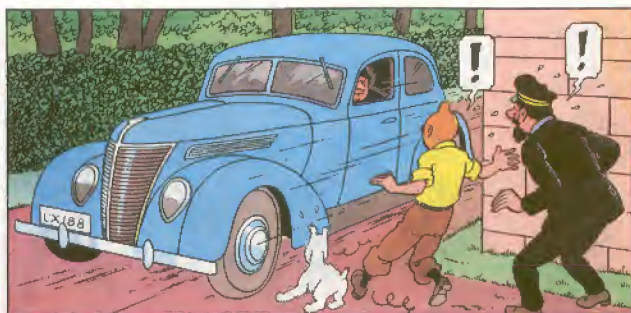
He's the most dangerous of the two: he mustn't get away!



A car! That's a car starting up!







Road-hog!... Cyclone!...  
Bashi-bazouk!... Steamroller!

Too late!  
He's gone!



We'll take care of the other one  
later; let's go and help  
those two!



Wait: I'll give  
you a hand



At last!...  
Got it!



Now, my friend, I'm waiting for an  
explanation...

I'm saying  
nothing!



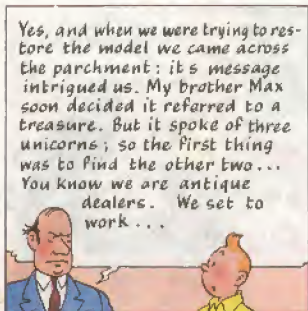
Perhaps you don't know  
that your victim recovered  
yesterday,  
and divulged  
your name...

Our victim?  
I... Barnaby  
wasn't dead!



Very well: I'd better tell you  
everything. When we bought  
this house, two years ago, we  
found a little model ship in  
the attic, in very poor con-  
dition...

The UNICORN!



Yes, and when we were trying to re-  
store the model we came across  
the parchment: its message  
intrigued us. My brother Max  
soon decided it referred to a  
treasure. But it spoke of three  
unicorns; so the first thing  
was to find the other two...  
You know we are antique  
dealers. We set to  
work...



... We used all our contacts:  
the people who comb the markets  
for interesting antiques; the  
people who hunt through attics;  
we told them to find the two  
ships. After some weeks one of  
our spies, a man called Barnaby,  
came and said he'd seen a simi-  
lar ship in the Old Street Mar-  
ket. Unfortunately, this  
ship had just been sold  
to a young man; Barn-  
aby tried in vain to  
buy it from him.



Yes, we know the rest. It was  
Barnaby whom you ordered to  
steal my UNICORN. But because  
the parchment wasn't there,  
he came back and ransacked  
the place - again unsuccessfully.

And then?  
...

Then? Oh well,  
I'd better tell  
you the  
lot...

Barnaby came back empty-handed. Then he suddenly remembered the other man who'd been trying to buy the ship from you.

And next day he visited Mr. Sakharine, chloroformed him, and stole the third parchment...

That's right. But after he'd given it to us, he and Max quarrelled violently about the money we'd agreed he should have. Barnaby demanded more, but Max stuck to the original sum. Finally Barnaby went, furiously angry and saying we'd regret our meanness. When he'd gone, Max got cold feet: supposing the wretch betrayed us? We jumped into the car and trailed him; our fears were justified. We saw him speaking...

... to you. Panicking in case he'd given the whole game away, Max caught up with you in a few seconds, and shot Barnaby as he stepped into your doorway.

I understand so far: but tell me, why did you kidnap me?

We told you: to make you give up the two parchments you had stolen from us a few days after the shooting.

I see. But I couldn't have stolen them as I didn't know you existed! But I wonder... Perhaps it was...

Yes, perhaps it was Mr. Sakharine who took the two scrolls?

Hurrah! That's it!

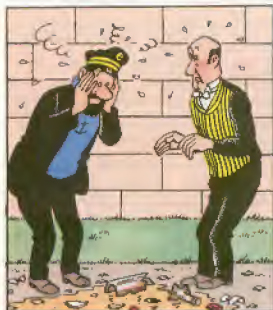
At last! ... He's managed to get it off for me...

Come on, Captain, we'd better help this poor chap...

Ready! Steady! He-e-ave!

Whoops!





Captain, as soon as we return we'll see Mr. Sakharine. I'm sure he took the two scrolls

Yes, we've only got one ...



One! Great snakes! we haven't even got that! The Bird brothers took it! But we can get it back!



Give me back the parchment you stole from my room!



Give it back?... That's impossible... Max has it in his pocket!



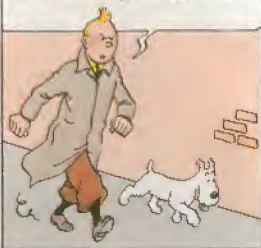
Ring up the police-station at once, give them a description of Max Bird, and his car number - LX 188. Then we'll go straight back to town...

Right!



Next morning...

Now for Mr. Sakharine...



RRRING



Mr. Sakharine? He's gone away, young man. He won't be back for a fortnight.



He would be away! That doesn't make things any easier!



In the meantime I'll go and see the Thomsons. Perhaps they'll be able to tell me if they've found Max Bird...



Good morning. Are you going out?... I just came to ask you...

Sh! Mum's the word! Come with us!



Where are we going?

You'll soon see...



...and a few minutes later...



Mr. Aristides Silk?

Yes...

I arrest you in the name of the law!

Arrest me?...

Yes, you! You are a thief, sir!...

A thief! Aristides Silk, retired civil servant: a thief! It's a mistake, gentlemen, a shocking mistake!

I'm sorry to interrupt you, Mr. Silk, but could you explain the meaning of all this?...



I...er, yes... Well, I... you see, I'm not a thief! certainly not! But I'm a bit of a... kleptomaniac. It's something stronger than I am: I adore wallets. So I... I... just find one from time to time. I put a label on it, with the owner's name...

... and I add it to my collection...

I venture to say, gentlemen, that this is a unique collection of its kind. And when I tell you that it only took me three months to assemble you'll agree that it's a remarkable achievement...

It's amazing! All these wallets in alphabetical order...

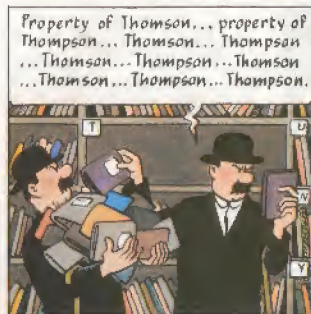
I wonder if by some extraordinary coincidence...

Hooray!

Property of Max Bird pinched on 1-5-58

And here are the two pieces of parchment!... Captain, Red Rackham's treasure is ours!





Three Brothers joined Thra Unicorpes in  
company sailing in the nooday Sunne  
will speak  
For tis from the Light that Light will  
dawn. And then shines forth  
20 31 42 N. 70 52 15 W.

Three company will speak the Eagle's +

For tis from the Light that Light will  
dawn. And then shines forth  
42 1 0 1 7

Free Unicorpes in  
nooday Sunne

the Eagle's +

Light that Light will  
dawn. And then shines forth  
3 52

the Eagle's +

No! No! and No! You can go on hunting if you want to, but I've had enough: I give up. Blistering barnacles to that pirate Red Rackham, and his treasure! I'd sooner do without it; I'm not racking my brains any more trying to make sense out of that gibberish! Thundering typhoons! What a thirst it's given me!



I've got it, Captain!...  
I've got it!...



The message is right when it says that it is "From the light that light will dawn!" Look, I put them together...



... and hold them, "sailing in company" in front of the light. Look now! See what comes through!...

Thundering typhoons! The numbers and letters are completed, and it gives



Three Brothers joined Thra Unicorpes in  
company sailing in the nooday Sunne  
will speak  
For tis from the Light that Light will  
dawn. And then shines forth  
20 31 42 N. 70 52 15 W.

the Eagle's +



A latitude and a longitude!

Obviously telling us  
where the UNICORN  
sank!



Now, Captain... When do  
we leave on our treasure-  
hunt?

When do we leave?  
... Er...



Let's see... First we need a ship... We  
can charter the SIRIUS, a trawler be-  
longing to my friend, Captain Chester...  
Then we need a crew, some diving suits  
and all the right equipment for this  
sort of expedition... That will take  
us a little time to arrange. We'd bet-  
ter say a month. Yes, in a  
month we could be ready to leave.



Red Rackham's  
treasure will  
be ours!



But of course it won't be  
easy, and we shall certainly  
have plenty of adventures on  
our treasure-hunt... You  
can read about them in  
**RED RACKHAM'S TREASURE**



HERGE

